

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 74, 76, 78-90, are respectfully requested.

Claims 74, 76, 78-81, 83-86, and 88-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying U.K. Pat. App. No. 2,277,812 ('812) in view of either U.S. Pat. No. 5,371,827 ('827) or U.S. Pat. No. 4,790,626 ('626). For publications to be applicable under sec. 103(a), the combination of teachings must, *inter alia*, expressly or inherently, teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Additionally, motivation and suggestion to combine the patents must be present.

The '812 patent teaches an underground container 1 having a cover 4 which contains a module 21 therein. Underground container 1 has cable inlet nozzles 5 that are sized to receive resilient cable inlet pipes 25 that are inserted therein. Cables 7 pass through cable inlet pipes 25 and are movable therein and can be protected from dirt by a bushing seal of expanded material or a wide-meshed fabric 26. See Fig. 1 and p. 4, ll. 4-13 of the '812 patent.

Whereas, the '827 patent teaches an end connector having a housing member for connecting a fiber optic cable to a port associated with a piece of equipment. The housing member of the '827 patent has a passageway therein for passing the cable or sheath 26 therethrough into the interior space of the equipment. See Fig. 1 and the Abstract of the '827 patent. Likewise, the '626 patent teaches a connection between an optical fiber cable and a junction box requiring a cable 1A to pass into an interior space of the junction box. See the Figure of the '626 patent.

The amendment of claims 74, 81 and 86 is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the features of the claims. Claim 74 recites an optical-fiber transmission system including a cable closure body and fiber optic cables, the system also includes cable lead-in spigots

09/101,846

P-981197

Page 5

attached to the cable closure body and being in communication with an interior space of the closure body, the cable lead-in spigots having respective outer surfaces, the fiber optic cables include waveguide-receiving pipes and optical waveguides, the waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having outer surfaces and at least one optical waveguide therein, the waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with the lead-in spigots, and the waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to the lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, the waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at the sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of the closure body interior space, and respective waveguides passing the sealing connections and entering the closure body interior space, wherein the sealing connections comprise respective sleeves having respective interior surfaces, the interior surfaces fittingly contacting the respective outer surfaces of the lead-in spigots and the respective outer surfaces of the waveguide-receiving pipes.

Claim 81 recites an optical-fiber transmission system including a cable closure body, a fiber optic cable, cable lead-in spigots being attached to the cable closure body and being in communication with an interior space of the closure body, the lead-in spigots having a terminal end section, the fiber optic cables having waveguide-receiving pipes and optical waveguides, the waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having at least one optical waveguide therein, the waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with the lead-in spigots and having a terminal end section, and the waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to the lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, the waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at the sealing connections and being disposed exteriorly of the closure body interior space so that respective terminal end sections of the lead-in spigots and the waveguide-receiving pipes are in contact, so that the waveguides pass the sealing connection and

enter the closure body interior space.

Claim 86 recites an optical-fiber transmission system, including a cable closure body, fiber optic cables, an interior space of the cable closure body being defined by a wall surface of the closure body, the wall surface including at least one ledge for supporting a waveguide tray, cable lead-in spigots being attached to the cable closure body and being in communication with the interior space of the closure body, the fiber optic cables including waveguide-receiving pipes and optical waveguides, the waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having at least one optical waveguide therein, the waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with the lead-in spigots, and the waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to the lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, the waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at the sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of the closure body interior space, and respective the waveguides passing the respective sealing connections and entering the closure body interior space.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art, taken alone or in combination with the other art of record, does not implicitly or expressly teach, disclose, or suggest all of the features of the claims. First, the '812 patent application requires that the entire cable 7 enter the interior space of the underground container 1. See Figures 1, 4 and p. 4, ll. 4-14 of the '812 patent application. Similarly, the '827 patent also requires that the sheath 26, i.e., the waveguide-receiving pipe, enter the interior space of the equipment. See the Fig. 1. Likewise, the '626 patent requires that the entire cable 1A enters the interior space of the junction box. See the Figure. On the other hand, the claims recite, *inter alia*, that the waveguide-receiving pipes terminate at the sealing connection and are disposed exteriorly of the closure body interior space. Clearly, the combination of references does not teach, disclose,

or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claims. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 74, 76, 78-81, 83-86, and 88-90 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, the '626 patent teaches a sheath 7 that encloses the respective ends of cable 1A and junction box 6. See the '626 patent at Col. 2, ll. 1-2. However, the cable of the '626 patent does not terminate at sheath 7, rather it extends into the interior space. See the Figure of the '626 patent. Additionally, the '827 patent teaches a sealing grommet 42, however, the sealing grommet 42 is configured to surround cable 10 and is disposed within the clamp nut 40. See Fig. 1 and Col. 5, ll. 33-52 of the '827 patent. In other words, the sealing grommet is internal to the end connector. On the other hand, claim 74 recites, inter alia, that sealing connections comprise respective sleeves having respective interior surfaces, said interior surfaces fittingly contacting said respective outer surfaces of said lead-in spigots and said respective outer surfaces of said waveguide-receiving pipes.

Claim 81 recites, inter alia, the waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at the sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of said closure body interior space so that respective terminal end sections of the lead-in spigots and the waveguide-receiving pipes are in contact. See for example Fig. 6 of the present application. The '626 patent teaches that cable 1A enters the interior space and the terminal end section of the waveguide-receiving pipe is not in contact with a terminal end section of the lead-in spigot, rather the terminal end section of the lead-in spigot is disposed over a medial section of cable 1A. Likewise, the '827 patent requires that sheath 26 enter the interior space of the equipment and terminate within the interior space of the equipment. Regarding claim 86, the publications

fail to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest a ledge for supporting a waveguide tray.

Additionally, the skilled artisan would not be motivated to make the purported combination. The '812 patent application requires a connection module 21 having sealed inlets so that underground container 1 does not need to be sealed, thereby saving expense. See the '812 patent application at pp.1-2, ll. 34-2. In other words, the skilled artisan would not be motivated to terminate waveguide-receiving pipes at cable inlet pipes 25 because the optical waveguides would not be protected/sealed from, for example, moisture inside underground container 1. Rather the '812 patent application teaches leaving the cable intact and routing the same into the connection module for connection therein. The skilled artisan would have understood that wide-meshed fabric 26 of the '812 patent is used to prevent dirt from entering underground container 1. Moreover, the '812 patent application teaches that the cable is movable within the cable inlet pipes so that if the underground container sinks, a sufficient reserve length is available to prevent stresses occurring in the cable. See the '812 patent application at p. 2, ll. 26-33. Thus, for the foregoing reasons the skilled artisan would not be motivated to provide a sealing connection at the cable inlet and would have understood that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a seal where the cables are intended to move. For the above stated reasons the Office Action has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 74, 76, 78-81, 83-86, and 88-90 is respectfully requested.

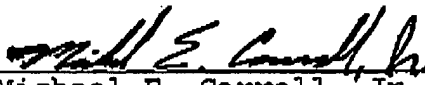
Claims 82 and 87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '812 Patent App. and the '827 and '626 patents in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,695,224 ('224). For the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 82 and 87 is respectfully requested.

No new fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael E. Carroll, Jr.
Attorney
Reg. No. 46,602
P.O. Box 489
Hickory, N. C. 28603
Telephone: 828/901-6725

Date: Feb. 14, 03

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 14 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

74. (twice amended) An optical-fiber transmission system, comprising a cable closure body and fiber optic cables, said system further comprising:

- (a) cable lead-in spigots, said cable lead-in spigots being attached to said cable closure body and being in communication with an interior space of the closure body, said cable lead-in spigots having respective outer surfaces;
- (b) said fiber optic cables comprising waveguide-receiving pipes and optical waveguides, said waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having outer surfaces and at least one optical waveguide therein, said waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with said lead-in spigots; and
- (c) said waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to said lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, said waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at said sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of said closure body interior space, and respective said waveguides passing said sealing connections and entering said closure body interior space, wherein said sealing connections comprise respective sleeves having respective interior surfaces, said interior surfaces fittingly contacting said respective outer surfaces of said lead-in spigots and said respective outer surfaces of said waveguide-receiving pipes.

81. (amended) An optical-fiber transmission system, comprising a cable closure body and a fiber optic cable, said system further comprising:

- (a) cable lead-in spigots, said cable lead-in spigots being attached to said cable closure body and being in communication with an interior space of the closure body, said lead-in spigots having a terminal end section;
- (b) said fiber optic cables comprising waveguide-receiving pipes

09/101,846

P-981197

Page 11

and optical waveguides, said waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having at least one optical waveguide therein, said waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with said lead-in spigots, said waveguide-receiving pipes having [havin] a terminal end section; and

(c) said waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to said lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, said waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at said sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of said closure body interior space so that respective terminal end sections of the lead-in spigots and the waveguide-receiving pipes are in contact, and respective said waveguides passing said respective sealing connections and entering said closure body interior space.

86. (amended) An optical-fiber transmission system, comprising a cable closure body and fiber optic cables, said system further comprising:

(a) an interior space of said cable closure body, said interior space being defined by a wall surface of the closure body, said wall surface comprising at least one ledge for supporting a waveguide tray;

(b) cable lead-in spigots, said cable lead-in spigots being attached to said cable closure body and being in communication with said interior space of the closure body;

(c) said fiber optic cables comprising waveguide-receiving pipes and optical waveguides, said waveguide-receiving pipes respectively having at least one optical waveguide therein, said waveguide-receiving pipes being respectively associated with said lead-in spigots; and

(d) said waveguide-receiving pipes being connected to said lead-in spigots by respective sealing connections, said waveguide-receiving pipes terminating at said sealing connection and being disposed exteriorly of said closure body interior space, and

respective said waveguides passing said respective sealing connections and entering said closure body interior space.

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 14 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

09/101,846
P-981197
Page 13